

IN THE CLAIMS

1-59. (CANCELLED)

60. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An automatic card shuffler comprising:
a housing mounted to a gaming table surface such that a card receiver for accepting a group of cards to be shuffled has a support surface that is recessed beneath the top surface of the gaming table when the group of cards is inserted from above the gaming table surface and placed onto the support surface in the card receiver below the gaming table surface;

the card receiver for accepting a group of cards to be shuffled;

a randomizing system for randomizing the order of an initial set of playing cards;

a collection surface for receiving randomized cards;

an elevator for raising the collection surface to an elevation ~~[proximate the gaming table surface]~~ that enables ~~[so that]~~ a dealer ~~[may]~~ to manually remove all randomized cards at one time from proximate the gaming table surface; and

a microprocessor for controlling the operation of the card shuffler.

61. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The automatic card shuffler of claim 60, and further comprising a movable cover that is closed at least part of the time over at least one of the card receiver and collection surface and is hinged to allow movement.

62. (WITHDRAWN) An automatic card shuffler, comprising:

a housing;

a card receiver for receiving a group of cards to be shuffled;

a card randomizing area, the area including a gripping support mechanism for suspending at least one card within the card randomizing area; and

a mechanism for automatically adjusting the gripping support mechanism during operation to suspend cards of varying dimensions.

63. (WITHDRAWN) The device of claim 62, wherein the gripping support mechanism comprises a pair of spaced apart gripping pads that move towards the edges of a stack of cards.
64. (WITHDRAWN) The device of claim 62 further comprising a sensor for sensing the presence of a substack of suspended cards.
65. (WITHDRAWN) An automatic card shuffler, comprising:
a card randomization mechanism;
a processor for determining operational functions of the card randomization mechanism and issuing commands;
at least one encoder for verifying operational functions of the card randomization mechanism, wherein
the processor verifies that cards have been randomized by comparing commands to encoder information to verify the operation of the card randomization mechanism.
66. (CANCELED).
67. (WITHDRAWN) An automatic card shuffler, comprising:
a microprocessor;
a card randomization mechanism; and
a remote controller for controlling the card randomization mechanism by means of a user-manipulated remote control device.
68. (CANCELED)

69. (CANCELED)

70. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The device of claim 61 further wherein the randomizing system further comprises:

a card randomizing area, the card randomizing area including:

i) a gripping support mechanism for suspending at least one card within the card randomizing area; and

ii) a mechanism for automatically adjusting the gripping support mechanism during operation to suspend cards of varying dimensions.

71. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The device of claim 70, wherein the gripping support mechanism comprises a pair of spaced apart gripping pads that move towards the edges of a stack of cards and there is a moveable cover over the card collection area that is hinged to enable movement of the cover.

72. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The device of claim 70 further comprising a sensor for sensing the presence of a substack of suspended cards.

73. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The device of claim 60 wherein there is a remote controller for controlling the card randomization system by means of a user-manipulated remote control device.

74. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The device of claim 73 wherein the remote controller is selected from the group consisting of an infra-red (I.R.) controller and a foot pedal.

75. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The device of claim 73 wherein the remote controller comprises an infra-red controller.

76. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An automatic card shuffler comprising:

a housing mounted to a gaming table surface such that a card support surface in a card receiver for accepting a group of cards to be shuffled can be recessed at a level beneath the top surface of the gaming table to which the housing is mounted during a shuffling event;

the card receiver for accepting a group of cards to be shuffled;

a randomizing system for randomizing the order of an initial set of playing cards beneath the top surface of the gaming table during the shuffling event;

a collection surface for receiving randomized cards;

an elevator for raising the collection surface to an elevation wherein cards may be removed manually by a dealer from the collection surface;

a moveable cover over the collection surface and hinged to the housing allowing and preventing manual access to the collection surface when the moveable cover is opened and closed, respectively; and

a microprocessor for controlling the operation of the automatic card shuffler.

77. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The automatic card shuffler of claim 76 wherein the cover is a flip-up cover.

78. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The automatic shuffler of claim 76 wherein the cover is mechanically lifted by the automatic card shuffler.

79. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The automatic shuffler of claim 76 wherein the card receiver comprises pick-off rollers.

80. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The automatic shuffler of claim 76 wherein the card receiver comprises a sloped surface.

81. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The automatic card shuffler of claim 76 wherein the cover moves by rotating about a hinge.